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Keeping Posted on Presbyterian College

Clinton, South Carolina

Volume 1 March, 1955 Number 4

Trustees Tap Three for Honorary Degrees

The Presbyterian College Board of Trustees named three PC alumni to receive honorary degrees and reelected two of its officers at the regular winter board meeting held on the campus early this month.

Chosen to receive honorary degrees at the June commencement exercises were: the Rev. Cliff Hill McLeod of Sumter, S. C., and the Rev. Clarence E. Piephoff of College Park, Ga., both honorary doctor of divinity degrees; and G. Creighton Frampton of Charleston, honorary doctor of laws degree.

The Rev. William B. Ward of Spartanburg, S. C., was reelected chairman of the Presbyterian College Board of Trustees, and J. F. Jacobs, Sr., of Clinton, S. C., was reelected secretary-treasurer. Selected to be the new vice-chairman was the Rev. Harry K. Holland of Marietta, Ga., who succeeds George B. Hoyt of Atlanta in this position.

A study of the Presbyterian College athletic program brought unanimous approval by the board, with particular reference to the unusually high scholastic standards now required of entering athletes.

The trustees also heard various reports made by PC President Marshall W. Brown and board committees, and they gave Dr. Brown a rising vote of appreciation for his work with the institution.

Construction To Start On PC's New Dormitory

Construction on Presbyterian College's new dormitory is expected to begin by March 15, President Marshall W. Brown has announced.

Indications are it will cost $223,660 and will provide room facilities for 96 students.

Dr. Brown said work will begin immediately after a contract is negotiated with the construction firm which submitted a low bid for the job. The goal is to have the dormitory ready for occupancy at the start of the fall semester next September.

Bids on the dormitory were taken from nine of the leading construction companies in this area. They were opened on March 8 and considered by Dr. Brown and the building committee of the Presbyterian College Board of Trustees. The indicated cost figure of $223,660 was based on acceptance of the lowest bid submitted.

P. S. Bailey of Clinton serves as chairman of the trustee building committee. Other members are: J. F. Jacobs, Sr., and Robert M. Vance, both of Clinton, and James C. Todd, Sr., of Laurens, S. C.

A Popular Feature

Guidance Center Performs Needed Service

The Vocational Guidance Center was established at Presbyterian College last September, and it already has proved itself a worthy and popular feature of the College.

Its purpose is to help young people choose the occupations for which they are best qualified. The range of those persons who have taken advantage of this opportunity includes:

1—High school juniors and seniors who need help in deciding upon the course they should pursue in college . . . or those not planning to attend college, but who desire assistance in planning their life work.

2—College students whose vocational goals are indefinite . . . or those who may be considering a change in their vocational objective.

3—Adults who are considering a change in jobs but who are undecided as to the kind of work for which they are best fitted, or who have other problems.

4—Persons simply wanting to know more about their aptitudes, abilities, interests and personality characteristics.

The Guidance Center is under the joint sponsorship of Presbyterian College and the Synod of South Carolina. Although it is a part of the College program, the Center operates independently for any person desiring the service. High school boys and girls have come from all over the state, and thus far their number has exceeded the large number of PC students taking part.

This Center was established because of the conviction that the choice of a vocation lies next in importance to the choice of Christ Himself and is of deep religious significance. It was not set up with the sole thought of increasing the number of candidates for church vocations, but it does emphasize that every job can be a Christian calling.

Dr. Clarence R. Thayer, an ordained Presbyterian minister and highly trained psychologist, serves as director of the Guidance Center. In addition to his testing and counseling service, he makes himself available as a speaker to church and presbytery groups and maintains a vocational guidance library containing literature of value to persons seeking occupational or educational information.

The testing and guidance procedure here is divided into four well-organized phases:

1—Preliminary interview—in which the person's problem is discussed and the counselor talks with him regarding his work experience, education and hobbies.

2—Administration of tests—in which the persons takes a series of appropriate tests selected to determine objectively his abilities and potentialities, interests and personal characteristics, and vocational aptitudes.

3—Terminal interview—in which at the conclusion of the testing

the counselor discusses the results of the tests, explores the occupational and educational areas for which the person is best suited, assists in working out a program to achieve the desired goals, and gives suggestions and requirements about securing employment or seeking admission to educational institutions.

4—Written reports—sent to the home church in addition to profile sheets and other records of tests for the person counseled to take with him.

Dr. Thayer points out that no fee for this service is required of members of Presbyterian churches in the Synod of South Carolina or other synods. Young people from other synods—particularly the Synod of Georgia, which shares control of Presbyterian College—may share this service as openings permit.

The amount of time required to complete the full procedure of testing and guidance is usually eight to ten hours for each individual. It is preferable to spread this over two days but may be accelerated through advance information provided the counselor. Similarly, Dr. Thayer prefers to limit groups to two persons, but where long distances of travel are involved, he may increase the number under special arrangements.

This, generally, is how the Vocational Guidance Center at Presbyterian College has operated during its opening months. It has proved its effectiveness. And Dr. Thayer has expressed satisfaction over the enthusiastic way in which the Center and its service have been received by Presbyterians.

Director Thayer Counsels Student

Meet the Faculty

Clarence R. Thayer, Director of Guidance

Dr. Clarence R. Thayer brought a wide range of training and experience to his position as director of the Vocational Guidance Center at Presbyterian College.

His extensive psychological training put special emphasis on testing and counseling. For several years he has been psychological examiner of the foreign missionary candidates for various denominations and has done some such testing for the foreign board of the Presbyterian Church, (U.S.). A member of the American Psychological Association, he has contributed numerous articles to publications within this field.

In addition to his Guidance Center duties, Dr. Thayer serves as professor of psychology at Presbyterian College and is supply pastor of Friendship Presbyterian Church near Clinton.

He came to PC to help establish the Center last September from his position as professor of psychology and Bible at Arkansas College. He is an ordained minister with over 25 years of experience in the active ministry and several years' service as a teacher in public high schools.

A native of Pittsburgh, Pa., he received his B.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Pittsburgh; his B.D. from Western Theological Seminary; and his Master of Systematic Theology from Xenia Theological Seminary. He is married to the former Miss Twila Roessing of McKeesport, Pa., and they have three sons.

"Keeping Posted on Presbyterian College" is sent without charge to persons interested in PC or in the work of independent church-related colleges generally. Anyone who wishes to be added to the mailing list or to comment on matters discussed within the bulletin should address the Department of Public Relations and Alumni Affairs.

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